

FLATBED SCANNERS

INTRODUCTION

Last month, we tested the latest multifunction printers, all of which include a scanner. These devices are neat and convenient, but they're not suitable for everybody. If you already own a perfectly good printer, for example, you can save money by buying a small, inexpensive flatbed scanner.

Separate scanners can also include advanced features, allowing you to scan medium or large-format film, or to convert old, dusty images into glorious digital images. As well as scanning photos, you can convert paper documents into digital text versions that you can edit, or to PDF files that are great for emailing.

Choosing a scanner isn't an easy task. Specifications alone will tell you nothing about the quality of scans. With this in mind, we've gathered eight of the latest models and put each one through a series of tough tests. Whether you want a simple, cheap way to scan documents or a great way to capture detail in your old negatives, we'll help you find the perfect flatbed scanner.

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SCAN & DELIVER

If you want to digitise documents or bring new life to dusty old images and films, a flatbed scanner is a must. We shed light on eight models from just £25

Choosing a... Flatbed Scanner

With scanner prices ranging from around £20 up to thousands of pounds, you'd be forgiven for wondering how much you need to spend to get the right balance of features, quality and speed. Deciding exactly what you want to use a scanner for should be your first move. If you want to scan basic documents with text, there's no point spending more than £50. But if you want to scan photos or negatives in order to enlarge them, it's worth spending a bit more on a scanner that can handle high resolutions.

NEW GEAR RESOLUTION

The optical resolution figure relates to the amount of detail that the scanner's sensor can pick up. Think of it like a digital camera, where having a higher megapixel rating allows the camera to capture more detail. Likewise, a scanner with a higher optical resolution should pick up more detail from the document, photo or film as it scans.

At 600x1,200dpi, Mustek's Be@rPaw 1200 CU Plus has the lowest optical resolution in the group. This is just about enough for scanning photos for enlarging. To produce usable images from tiny frames of 35mm film, or to create big A3 prints from a small original document, you'll need a higher resolution. The scanners

here that accept film all have a resolution of at least 3,200x9,600dpi.

It's important to remember that a high optical resolution does not guarantee high image quality. Just as in a camera, the quality of the lenses and other parts of the scanner's optics can have a big effect. We tested each scanner here with the same film and reflective sources, and found significant differences in quality between scanners with identical quoted resolutions. Our reviews explain which performed well and which produced poorer results.

When scanning, we recommend using a minimum resolution of 600dpi for photos and 100dpi for text documents. As you increase the resolution, the scanner will produce larger files, so be careful before you choose the highest possible resolution, as you could end up with a 1GB file before you know it. Scanning at high resolutions also takes longer, as the scan head moves more slowly to pick up fine detail.

GUESSING GAME

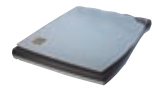
If you examine scanner boxes in a computer store, you'll notice that they all claim to scan at very high resolutions such as 19,200dpi. These interpolated figures refer to the maximum possible resolution



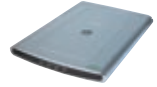


This month

MUSTEK
Be@rpaw
1200CU Plus
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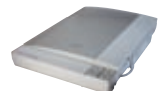
CANON
CanoScan LiDE 70
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CANON
CanoScan 4400F
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Perfection
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created by the scanner software, rather than the scanner's mechanism, and they're best ignored. When you ask a scanner to scan at a resolution higher than its optical resolution, it has to make an educated guess about the pixels between the ones it can see. This means the finished image will have no more actual detail in it than a scan at the scanner's maximum optical resolution. If you need to create a larger image, any photo-manipulation software will allow you to enlarge the finished picture in the same manner.

SHINE A LIGHT

When scanning reflective documents, scanners shine a light from below the scan head. This is reflected back from the document and on to the sensor. When scanning film and other semi-transparent media, however, this doesn't work. To scan film a second light is needed, positioned on the other side of the film holder.

The size of the light varies from scanner to scanner, and those with small light areas such as HP's G3010 can scan only one or two frames from a strip of negatives at once. At the other end of the scale, HP's G4050 can scan a whopping 30 frames of 35mm film at a time.

Because of the small size of a 35mm frame, they must be scanned at high resolutions to capture high levels of detail. This means small imperfections such as dust and minor scratches are greatly magnified, so many scanners have

dust-reduction features. Most scanners here use software to try to remove any imperfections, but Canon's 8600F uses an infrared light to identify the location of any dust or dirt on the film. It works well, but the 8600F is more expensive than most here.

THE EXTRA FACTOR

All the scanners here have buttons that let you instantly scan whatever is on the platen, but to use advanced settings you must use the TWAIN driver. Usually you open this driver from within an image-editing program such as Photoshop. It offers full control over the area to scan, the resolution to scan at, plus colour and sharpening

tools. Most image-editing packages included with these scanners are basic affairs, where you can crop, resize and rotate images, apply effects or retouch images to remove unwanted elements such as red eye. However, Canon's 8600F includes Adobe's Photoshop Elements 4, an excellent application for editing photos.

All eight scanners also include OCR software. This converts a sheet of text in the scanner into a format that you can change in a word processor. You'll find the full details of what's included with each scanner in our table on page 106. Unlike most printers, all the scanners here come with a USB cable, so everything you need to start scanning is included in the box.

The grass is always greener Scanner quality compared

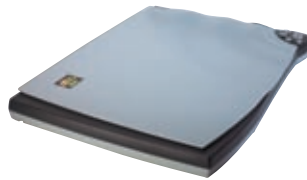


▲ Colour accuracy varies significantly between scanners. Compared to a scan from the Epson V100, (right), the green grass in the Canon 4400F's scan of this photo (left) looks undersaturated

MUSTEK Be@rpaw 1200CU Plus

★★★★

£25 inc VAT



Mustek's Be@rPaw 1200CU Plus is the most affordable scanner in this group. It's slim and easy to set up with just one cable, as the USB cable is used for power as well as data. Annoyingly, though, this cable is fixed to the scanner. Should it become damaged, you'd need to replace the whole scanner. You can save desk space by folding out the stand on the base and mounting the scanner vertically but, with no lip to prevent documents falling out, you'll need to place it horizontally when scanning.

The five buttons are arranged in the shape of a pawprint. They let you scan to a variety of destinations, including your email application. The TWAIN interface looks old-fashioned, but it's straightforward and has all the options you'll need, including sharpening, descreening and colour correction. You can also scan several areas in one operation, which is something HP scanners can't do.

The Be@rPaw uses a CIS sensor. It has the lowest optical resolution of the group at 600x1,200dpi, but this isn't a huge disadvantage as it can't scan film or other transparencies.

Colours were fairly accurate, but images weren't as sharp as we'd have liked. The main drawback is the time the scanner takes to scan. Even at 150dpi, it took 41 seconds to scan an A4 sheet; the LiDE 70 took just 12. It was the slowest at scanning a 6x4in photo at 600dpi, taking 55 seconds.

If you don't need to scan film and you don't mind hanging around for scans, the Be@rpaw is decent value.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Affordable
- ✗ Scans take ages
- ✗ Low optical resolution

CIS FLATBED SCANNER 600x1,200dpi optical resolution, 48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed interface
PART CODE SNM-BP1200CU
SUPPLIER www.eclipsecomputers.com
DETAILS www.mustek.de

CANON CanoScan LiDE 70

★★★★

£49 inc VAT



Canon's LiDE 70 is twice the price of the Be@rPaw, but doesn't offer the ability to scan negatives or film. It also uses a similar CIS sensor and is powered by a single USB cable. It has a higher 2,400x4,800dpi optical resolution, which is useful if you want to enlarge small portions of images. The extra money also buys you a better scanning interface, with three modes: simple, advanced and multi-scan. The latter allows you to place a few items on the platen and scan them with one click.

On the front edge are four buttons. These can be reassigned to perform the functions you want using the Toolbox application, but the standard functions are useful enough. One sends the image straight to a printer, the second scans a photo at the default settings and the third scans to an email attachment. Particularly handy is the button that scans directly to a PDF file. You can also choose to create a multi-page PDF file if the original document has more than one page.

The CD includes a competent OCR package that allows you to convert a sheet of text into an editable format. None of the OCR packages we tried was perfect, but it's a lot quicker than retyping a document manually.

As with the other two Canon scanners in the group, we found that colours were undersaturated. This is usually easy to fix in software but greens were particularly weak, making it annoyingly tricky to produce good results.

The LiDE 70 is a quick and reasonable scanner, but the CanoScan 4400F is even faster, scans film and costs only £9 more.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Quick; fairly inexpensive
- ✗ Can't scan film
- ✗ Undersaturated greens

CIS FLATBED SCANNER 2,400x4,800dpi optical resolution, 48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed interface
PART CODE 1502B010AB
SUPPLIER www.dabs.com
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk

CANON CanoScan 4400F

★★★★★

£58 inc VAT



While the LiDE 70 has no transparency adaptor, the CanoScan 4400F can hold a whole strip of six negatives or four 35mm slides. Glass-mounted slides are too thick, though: only HP's G4050 and Epson's V100 accept them. Compared to the Epson V350's auto loader, it's fiddly to insert negatives into the 4400F. It's also tricky to replace the cover on the inside of the lid when you want to scan reflective documents.

These foibles are easy to overlook at this price, especially when the TWAIN driver is so easy to use. It's identical to the one used by the LiDE 70. Unlike HP's driver, it doesn't automatically preview when you open it, which is annoying when scanning negatives. There's no infrared sensor for reducing dust and scratches, but the dust-removal tools provided in software work well. We like the way individual frames in a strip of film are automatically selected, so you can pick those you want to scan in one batch.

Canon's 4400F has a 4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution, and a CCD sensor rather than the CIS technology used in cheaper scanners. Several buttons allow you to scan to a PDF file, and you can choose between colour or mono scans. The 4400F took just 13 seconds to scan a 6x4in photo at 600dpi, and 18 seconds for an A4 sheet at 300dpi. A 35mm slide took a little under two minutes at 2,400dpi. We had no complaints about sharpness, but the green areas lacked vibrancy.

This is a good scanner, but Epson's V100 is better and only marginally more expensive.

SUMMARY

- ✓ A cheap way to scan film
- ✓ Very fast
- ✗ Fiddly transparency adaptor

CCD FLATBED SCANNER 4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution, 48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed interface
PART CODE 1306B008AA
SUPPLIER www.dabs.com
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk

EPSON Perfection V100 Photo

★★★★★

£60 inc VAT



BEST BUY Although it has a lower optical resolution of 3,200x9,600dpi, Epson's Perfection V100 Photo is a close rival to Canon's 4400F. It costs £2 more and offers identical film-scanning capabilities.

It's tricky to mount a strip of negatives ready for scanning without putting fingerprints on them, but because the frame sits on the platen rather than clipping into the lid, glass-mounted slides fit easily.

At the front are four buttons for one-click scanning to email, a printer, a photo-editing application or directly to a PDF. The TWAIN driver can break up a strip of negatives or 35mm slides into selectable thumbnails, ready for batch scanning. It can do this for multiple reflective originals, too.

A fully automatic mode offers one-click scanning. The V100 detects the type of original and scans it at predetermined settings that you can alter if you wish. You'll have to remember to remove the transparency adaptor cover if you're scanning film.

The V100 is no slouch at scanning A4 documents and managed to scan a frame of 35mm film at 2,400dpi in one minute and 12 seconds. Colours were accurate and they remained as faithful to the originals as we could have hoped. Some detail is lost in dark areas, but HP's G4050 suffered the same problem.

With image quality almost identical to the pricier V350, this is excellent value.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Excellent quality; easy to use
- ✗ Fiddly transparency adaptor

CCD FLATBED SCANNER 3,200x9,600dpi optical resolution, 48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed interface
PART CODE B118184072
SUPPLIER www.currys.co.uk
DETAILS www.epson.co.uk

HP Scanjet G3010

★★★

£67 inc VAT



HP's G3010 is more expensive than Canon's 4400F and Epson's V100, but lags behind in the film-scanning department. Its small transparency adaptor is only big enough to accommodate two 35mm slides or two frames in a strip of negatives. Slides slot into the scanner lid, so you can't scan glass-mounted slides as they're too thick to fit.

The G3010 has a high optical resolution of 4,800x9,600dpi, but its installation routine and TWAIN driver are a pain. The installation routine takes a good 15 minutes to fill your hard disk up with at least 450MB of software, and then requires the system to be restarted. The TWAIN driver is even more frustrating. It insists on running an automatic preview when it starts, and when scanning film you have to wait 11 seconds for this to finish before you can change the settings and wait another 25 seconds for the additional lamp to warm up. There's no way to scan multiple originals in one go, and the driver shuts down after each scan. It doesn't automatically remember your last settings or the preview image when it reopens, so you have to repeat the process again.

On top of this, the G3010 is slower than most of the group. It took 58 seconds to scan a 6x4in photo at 1,200dpi and a foot-tapping six minutes 45 seconds to scan a slide at 2,400dpi. Reflective scans had over-saturated reds, and film scans had a red tint to them as well.

Epson's cheaper V100 is quicker, produces better-quality scans and is much less infuriating to use, so there is really no reason to pick the Scanjet G3010 instead.

SUMMARY

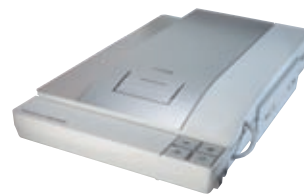
- ✗ Infuriating TWAIN driver
- ✗ Small transparency adaptor
- ✗ Below-par colour accuracy

CCD FLATBED SCANNER
4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution,
48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed
interface
PART CODE L1985A
SUPPLIER www.redstore.com
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk

EPSON Perfection V350 Photo

★★★★★

£85 inc VAT



Epson's Perfection V350 looks almost identical to the V100, but the bulging lid is home to the only automatic film loader of the group. This, along with the V350's higher optical resolution of 4,800x9,600dpi, makes it an attractive choice if you have a large collection of negatives to scan. The automatic loader has a cover, which flips open smoothly. Simply slide the strip of film in and the mechanism loads it into the scanner. It's less fiddly than other scanners here, and means you can scan up to six frames at a time. The only disadvantage of the mechanism is that, while it's still capable of scanning mounted slides, there's only room for two at a time.

The TWAIN driver is identical to that of the V100. It's intuitive and behaves just as you'd want it to, remaining open after a scan so you can carry on scanning and remembering the previous settings. The V350 took a few seconds longer than the V100 for scans at up to 600dpi, but was noticeably quicker at 1,200dpi. It also proved slightly faster for scanning film at 2,400dpi.

The quality of scans produced by the V350 was almost indistinguishable from that of the V100's scans. Reflective scans showed excellent colour accuracy and good sharpness. Film scans were respectable and the software managed to remove most imperfections.

This is an excellent scanner, but at £85 it's a little expensive. Unless you plan to scan loads of film strips, Epson's V100 Photo is better value.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Auto film loader
- ✓ Fast scans
- ✗ Holds only two slides

CCD FLATBED SCANNER
4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution,
48-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed
interface
PART CODE B11B185032
SUPPLIER www.staples.co.uk
DETAILS www.epson.co.uk

CANON CanoScan 8600F

★★★★

£119 inc VAT



Large and imposing, the CanoScan 8600F looks like it means business. Its main justification for the fact that it costs twice as much as the 4400F is FARE Level 3. This system uses a second scan with infrared light to identify dust, scratches and anything else on the surface of film scans. Algorithms then take this data and apply it to the image to remove imperfections. It works well, too; although not all scratches were completely gone when viewing magnified images, they were far less noticeable. The large transparency adaptor allows up to 12 35mm frames, four 35mm slides or four medium-format 120 frames to be scanned at once.

The scanner took one minute and 44 seconds to scan a slide at 2,400dpi without FARE, but two minutes 26 seconds with it enabled. Overall, though, the 8600F is a fast scanner and seems slow only if you're scanning at the maximum 4,800dpi optical resolution. Like the 4400F, the 8600F has seven so-called EZ buttons for scanning straight to PDF, email or a printer. The ScanGear TWAIN driver used by the 4400F is included, plus the additional SilverFast SE driver and a copy of Photoshop Elements 4.

When scanning reflective items, it was no better than Epson's £60 V100. Images were no sharper and exhibited the same under-saturated greens as those of the 4400F and LiDE 70.

The 8600F is expensive, but with a good software bundle and dust-reduction hardware you can see where your money goes. It's a good choice if you need to scan old, damaged film, but otherwise the V100 is better value.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Good-quality film scans
- ✓ Dust removal system
- ✗ Expensive

CCD FLATBED SCANNER
4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution,
96-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed
interface
PART CODE 1307B008
SUPPLIER www.scan.co.uk
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk

HP Scanjet G4050

★★★★

£191 inc VAT



You may be wondering why HP's Scanjet G4050 costs almost £200, especially as there's not a lot of technical difference between it and the G3010. The key difference is that it supports six-colour, 96-bit scanning. This involves scanning each item twice with two different light sources.

In tests, the difference between three-colour and six-colour mode was barely noticeable; both scans showed faithful colour reproduction. Sadly, the most remarkable result of the six-colour mode is to increase scanning time exponentially. A scan of a 6x4in photo at 600dpi in three-colour mode took 21 seconds, but over 90 seconds in six-colour mode.

One of the G4050's other tricks is to employ a moving light source in its lid, allowing it to use the full A4-size platen for scanning film. It comes with three adaptors: one for 16 35mm slides, another for two medium-format frames and one 4x5in large-format frame, and a final one that can take five strips of negatives. This allows you to scan up to 30 35mm frames at once. Scanning 30 frames takes over half an hour, but it lets you set the scanner going and leave it to process almost an entire roll of film. Sadly, this scanner uses the same awful TWAIN driver as the cheaper Scanjet G3010. This makes most scanning tasks a tedious experience.

Considering its price and the limited advantages of its slow six-colour scanning, it's hard to justify buying this scanner. Unless you need to scan large-format transparencies, Epson's V350 is far better value for scanning multiple frames of film.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Can scan loads of film
- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Infuriating TWAIN driver

CCD FLATBED SCANNER
4,800x9,600dpi optical resolution,
96-bit colour output, USB Hi-Speed
interface
PART CODE L1957A
SUPPLIER www.morecomputers.co.uk
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk



MANUFACTURER	MUSTEK	CANON	CANON	EPSON	HP	EPSON	CANON	HP
Model	Be@rpaw 1200CU Plus	CanoScan LiDE 70	CanoScan 4400F	Perfection V100 Photo	Scanjet G3010	Perfection V350 Photo	CanoScan 8600F	Scanjet G4050
Rating	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★
TESTED SCAN SPEEDS								
Full scan area preview	22s	11s	8s	8s	11s	8s	11s	8s
A4 document at 150dpi	41s	12s	12s	15s	19s	19s	13s	14s
A4 document at 300dpi	1m 18s	20s	18s	23s	23s	25s	19s	27s
6x4in print at 600dpi	55s	15s	13s	17s	21s	20s	13s	27s
6x4in print at 1,200dpi	1m 38s	46s	41s	52s	58s	39s	39s	1m 59s
Single 35mm negative at 2,400dpi	N/A	N/A	1m 58s	1m 12s	3m 30s	1m 6s	1m 44s	52s
Single 35mm negative at maximum dpi	N/A	N/A	3m 46s	1m 26s	3m 57s	2m 20s	4m 10s	3m 20s
SPECIFICATIONS								
Scanner technology	CIS	CIS	CCD	CCD	CCD	CCD	CCD	CCD
Optical resolution	600x1,200dpi	2,400x4,800dpi	4,800x9,600dpi	3,200x9,600dpi	4,800x9,600dpi	4,800x9,600dpi	4,800x9,600dpi	4,800x9,600dpi
Maximum interpolated resolution	19,200dpi	19,200dpi	19,200dpi	12,800dpi	19,200dpi	12,800dpi	19,200dpi	19,200dpi
Colour depth (output)	48-bit	48-bit	48-bit	48-bit	48-bit	48-bit	48-bit	96-bit
Greyscale depth (output)	8-bit	8-bit	16-bit	16-bit	8-bit	16-bit	16-bit	8-bit
Maximum document size	216x297mm	216x297mm	216x297mm	216x297mm	220x300mm	216x297mm	216x297mm	216x311mm
Maximum transparency size	N/A	N/A	6x 35mm film or 4x 35mm slides	6x 35mm film or 4x 35mm slides	2x 35mm film or 2x 35mm slide	6x 35mm film (auto loader) or 3x 35mm film and 2x 35mm slides	12x 35mm film or 4x 35mm slide or 4x 120	30x 35mm film or 16x 35mm slide or 2x 120 and one 4x5in film
Film formats accepted	N/A	N/A	35mm film, 35mm slide	35mm film, 35mm slide	35mm film, 35mm slide	35mm film, 35mm slide	35mm film, 35mm slide, 120	35mm film, 35mm slide, 120, 4x5in
Function buttons	5	4	7	4	4	4	7	4
Scan head lock	None	Manual	Manual	None	None	None	Manual	None
USB powered	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Supplied software	ABBY Finereader 6.0 Sprint, Ulead Photo Express 5 SE, Ulead CD & DVD Picture Studio 3 SE Basic	Arcsoft PhotoStudio, ScanSoft OmniPage SE, Presto! PageManager, Canon ScanGear	Arcsoft PhotoStudio, ScanSoft OmniPage SE, Presto! PageManager, Canon ScanGear	Arcsoft PhotoImpression 5, ABBYY FineReader Sprint 6 Plus, Epson Creativity Suite	HP Photosmart (integrated OCR)	Arcsoft PhotoImpression 5, ABBYY FineReader Sprint 6 Plus, Epson Creativity Suite	Adobe Photoshop Elements 4, ScanSoft OmniPage SE, Canon ScanGear	HP Photosmart Premier 8.5 (integrated OCR)
PHYSICAL								
USB cable supplied	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interface	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed
Dimensions (HxWxD)	37x281x405mm	40x258x374mm	83x259x474mm	57x280x430mm	73x296x494mm	73x280x430	120x283x467mm	108x303x508mm
Weight	1.8kg	1.7kg	2.8kg	2.6kg	3.1kg	2.9kg	4.3kg	5.3kg
BUYING INFORMATION								
Price including VAT	£25	£49	£58	£60	£67	£85	£119	£191
Supplier	www.eclipsecomputers.com	www.dabs.com	www.dabs.com	www.currys.co.uk	www.redstore.com	www.staples.co.uk	www.scan.co.uk	www.morecomputers.co.uk
Details	www.mustek.de	www.canon.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.epson.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.epson.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk
Part code	SNM-BP1200CU	1502B010AB	1306B008AA	B11B184072	L1985A	B11B185032	1307B008	L1957A

How we test Flatbed scanners

Before buying a scanner, you need to know if it produces good image quality, and how fast it is. Our benchmarks are designed to test performance in both these areas, while mimicking the tasks you might want to perform at home.

Our first set of tests simulate home office work. We scan an A4 mixed colour document that has been laser printed on to plain copy paper at 150dpi with 24-bit colour and use a stopwatch to measure the time taken for a full page scan. We repeat this test at 300dpi. Both images are examined for quality.

Our next tests simulate scanning a photo print. We place a standard test photo on the platen and measure the time taken to scan it at 600dpi. We repeat this test at 1,200dpi, and again at the scanner's maximum optical resolution. We check to see how well the colours of the original photo are reproduced. Next, we scan a special test image, known as a Q60 target, at the scanner's maximum optical resolution. The image includes colour swatches and greyscale samples that let us judge the accuracy of colour reproduction and contrast.

Finally, if the scanner can scan transparencies, we measure the time taken to scan one frame of unmounted 35mm film and one mounted 35mm slide at 2,400dpi. Both samples are professionally developed Fuji Provia RDP-III slide film, as this has a finer grain than standard C41 negative film. We repeat this test at the scanner's optical resolution.

Labs verdict Flatbed scanners

When scanning reflective items, the two Epson models stood well above the others. Colours were well saturated and true to life. A touch of contrast enhancement made whites shine and blacks deep, and our test photos were reproduced well.

When it came to scanning film, Canon's 8600F produced the cleanest images, but at almost £120 it's expensive. Unless you need to salvage loads of dusty negatives, the automatic feeder of Epson's Perfection V350 is more convenient.

For most people, though, Epson's V100 is the best choice. It offers the same superb reflective and film scans as the V350, but costs £25 less. It lacks the V350's clever automated film loader, but it can scan more mounted slides. At £60 including VAT, it's great value and wins our Best Buy award. **CS**



EPSON Perfection V100 Photo

★★★★★

